

# NEW HALL-MILLS MURDER <sup>Hall Mills 105.20</sup>

## PROBE FOLLOWS PETITION

### FILED BY EX-MAID'S HUSBAND

**Prosecutor Toolan Says Chief Responsibility Rests With Somerset County. Declines to Express Opinion on Importance of New Developments.**

Admitting that his attention had been drawn recently to certain statements regarding the Hall-Mills murder case, contained in a petition for annulment of marriage filed in the Court of Chancery at Trenton by Arthur S. Riehl, husband of Louise Geist, a former parlor maid in the home of Rev. Mr. Hall, Prosecutor Toolan said today that the famous double murder is again under investigation, but emphasized the thought that the crime was committed in Somerset county and that it is not a Middlesex county case.

"Chief responsibility for solving the Hall-Mills case rests with Prosecutor Bergen of Somerset county," said Mr. Toolan. "While I am perfectly willing to do everything in my power to unravel the mystery, as I have always been, yet the crime was committed in Somerset county and is not in reality a Middlesex county matter."

Prosecutor Toolan stated that the petition had been in his office and was now on file in the Court of Chancery office at Trenton. "Since learning of Mr. Riehl's petition we have made an investigation," he stated, "and certain allegations contained in the annulment petition have been verified by the investigation." The prosecutor did not say what the verified allegations were, nor would he express an opinion as to their importance, but announced that the investigation would be continued. Mr. Toolan was assistant prosecutor under Prosecutor Stricker at the time of the double murder on September 14, 1922, and is thoroughly familiar with the case.

Miss Geist and Riehl were married at Bound Brook two years ago and separated a few months later. In petitioning for annulment of the marriage, Riehl asserts that his wife made statements tending to incriminate certain New Brunswick people whose names were prominently linked with the investigation when it was at its height.

At the office of Prosecutor Bergen in Somerville it was stated that the Prosecutor was in Canada and would not return until next Tuesday. No further information was forthcoming, all replies to questions put being, "I don't know," or "I can't tell you."

Rev. Edward W. Hall was rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist at the time of the murder, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, who was slain with him, was a choir singer in his church, her husband, James Mills, being the church sexton.

The bodies of the murdered couple were found in a field on the Phillips farm, near the Raritan Landing, on Saturday, September 16, 1922, two days after they were reported missing from home. Despite numerous grand jury investigations and the employment of public and private detectives over a long period, no one has ever been brought to trial for the crime.

Riehl, it is said, lives in Jersey City now, but the street address has not been obtained. Mrs. Riehl lives at Davidson's Mills, about six miles out of the city. Riehl's attorney is Reinhold Hekeler of 62 Twenty-third street, West New York.

Publication of a sensational story regarding the murder in a New York paper this morning brought nearly a score of metropolitan newspaper men to New Brunswick today and the scenes about the Prosecutor's office reminded one of the late fall of 1922, when the double murder occupied columns of first page space for many weeks.